

8-11-15

Activities

- Refining carbon pools to report on, data sources, and accounting methods. Agreed to use regional allometric equations for estimating biomass. 10% variation between methods.
- Committee meet and reviewed preliminary FIA inventory tables that had been developed for CAL FIRE.
- CAL FIRE is requesting custom FIA tables from USFS-PNW; allows better breakdown of ownership classes and regional reporting tables.
- Activity reporting - Inventory sub-committee is working on treatment acres from CAL FIRE and USFS to populate 'Table 3' of the work plan for the policy sub-committee. Main issue is determining how to group activities in FACTS and CAL MAPPER and avoid double counting.
- Data from FIA will be the main source for carbon pool estimates and trend analysis. Carbon pools **A** through **E** are the main components suitable for rigorous statistical analysis of 'in forest' trends by standard FIA reporting units such as forest type, ownership type, or ecoregion. Methods for estimating carbon in harvested wood products (pools **F**, **G**, and **H**) utilize other sources of aggregated information and modeling, with associated uncertainties.

Table: 1 Candidate Forest Carbon Pools

[illegible]

NFS – National Forest System

Main points

- There is broad agreement that items **A – E** are well represented through FIA data, and are suitable for reporting trends.
- Meaningful ‘granularity’ of reporting by forest types, ownerships, and regions will vary with sample size and in accordance with FIA confidentiality rules. Statewide reporting by forest and ownership types generally satisfies desired statistical confidence and privacy protections.
- Reporting by standard FIA categories fits within PNW-FIA business operations: customized reporting for non-standard categories requires special effort and may entail delays.
- FIA data affords for consistency between FCAT inventory estimates, AB 1504 inventory estimates, and underlying data supporting the ARB GHG inventory.
- Proposed analysis currently envisions reporting only stocks and change (gains, losses) in Metric tons of Carbon or CO₂ equivalents (unit of measure), does not parse to ‘sinks’ or ‘emissions’.
- Carbon accounting for Harvested Wood Products (items **F, G** and **H**) require additional data and supporting information. For these categories, uncertainties are likely greater than for ‘in-forest’ carbon pools.
- ‘Substitution’ or other indirect benefits, and ‘leakage’ associated with Harvested Wood Products (columns **I, J**) are likely important considerations in formulating strategies for the Plan. Data are limited however for these topics and there may be disagreement over quantification or accounting methodologies.

Desired Outcomes

- Complete estimate of pools with 95% confidence intervals with meaningful standard deviations (for ABG Live Tree biomass).
- Complete estimate of forest land base (all owners and Forest types)
- Ability to conduct trend analysis on an annual basis
- Consistency between FCAT, AB 1504 and AB 32 estimates of stocks and change.

Next Steps

- Inventory Subcommittee will work with BOF and ARB to discuss alignment of FCAT inventory, AB 1504 inventory and ARB estimates underpinning development of GHG inventory.
- Statewide FIA tables for above carbon pools anticipated by September, 2015. Regional tables not likely before January, 2016.
- Review and recommend spatial data sets that estimate forest biomass. This can be used for planning purposes, but not intended to replace FIA for inventory reporting.
- Anticipate a need to coordinate on inventory reporting with the Resource Economic Study.